

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

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Eastern Illinois University

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BE KIND

Eastern students talk about the importance of Random Acts of Kindness Day.

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FINAL FOUR GAMES

The season is winding down and the women's basketball is holding on to an OVC Tournament spot.

PAGE 8

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

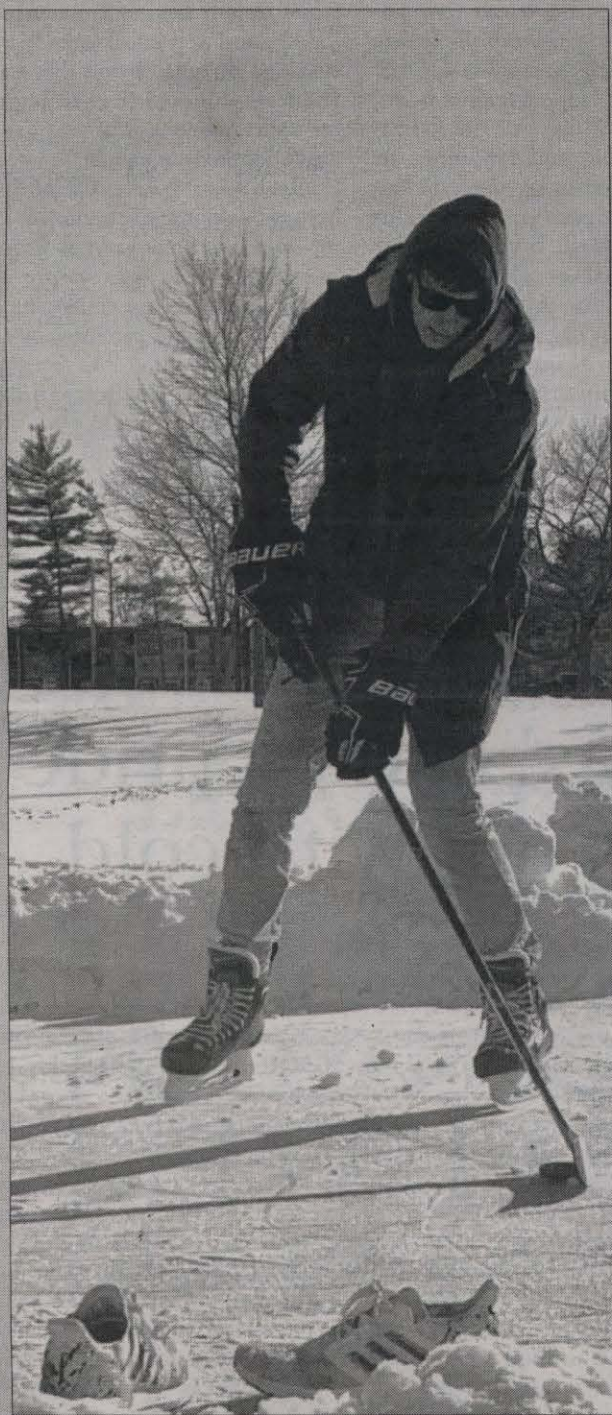
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Snow day fun



CORRYN BROCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

TOP: Matt, Suzanne, Nora and Liam Schubert, of Charleston, sled down a hill at Kiwanis Park in Charleston Tuesday afternoon. The family was one of many using the hills at the park for sledding.

LEFT: Noah Hile, a sophomore secondary education major, handles a hockey puck on the pond behind Ninth Street Hall Tuesday afternoon. Hile said he has been out on the pond for around six hours in the past week and has shoveled patches for himself to be able to enjoy the winter weather before the temperatures rise again.

BOTTOM: Kirsten Kruger, of Charleston, walks her dog, Willow, around Greek Court Tuesday afternoon.



UPI calls for Rep. Miller to match donation

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The University Professionals of Illinois at Eastern are calling on U.S. Representative Mary Miller to match or exceed their donation of \$1,372.13 to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum after a speech she gave Jan. 5.

During the speech, Miller said, "If we win a few elections, we're still going to be losing unless we win the hearts and minds of our children. This is the battle. Hitler was right on one thing. He said, 'Whoever has the youth has the future.'"

Her comment, made days after the congresswoman was sworn in, attracted attention from all over the United States and led to calls for her resignation that still sit in the replies to her social media postings.

A petition was formed by the Illinois Legislative Jewish Caucus after the speech which has 26,423 signatures calling for her resignation.

The petition states Miller demonstrated "blatant antisemitism" and was disrespectful to Jewish people and all who have died at the hands of Nazis.

UPI, page 5

Illinois GOP call for 'truly balanced' state budget

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Republican leaders in the Illinois House are calling on Gov. JB Pritzker to propose a truly balanced budget when he delivers his budget address Wednesday, noting he should avoid relying on money that may never materialize.

That's what happened in May when lawmakers adopted the current fiscal year's budget. That plan called for \$42.9 billion in in General Revenue Fund spending, but it was predicated on the assumption that Congress would pass an aid package for state and local governments and that Illinois voters would approve Pritzker's proposed constitutional amendment to allow for a graduated income tax.

The graduated tax amendment failed in the November election and Congress so far has not passed a stimulus package that includes aid to state and local governments, although the new Biden administration has proposed one.

"The Illinois Constitution cannot be more clear about the responsibilities of the executive branch," House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said during a virtual news conference Monday. "Article 8, Section 2 and 2(b) say that the governor presents a budget that must balance spending with estimated revenue available for that fiscal year. Estimated revenue, not wishful thinking."

BUDGET, page 5

City Council approves CPD agreement

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

The Charleston City Council approved an agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #88 during its meeting Tuesday evening.

The agreement explains the requirements and expectations of working as an officer for the Charleston Police Department and covers patrol officers, sergeants and lieutenants.

The agreement explains management rights, supervisory duties, the no strike policy, bill of rights, resolution of impasse, discipline and discharge, grievance and arbitration, layoffs, maintenance of standards, dues deduction/union business, conditions of employment, hours of work, seniority, types of leave, overtime, wages, holidays, uniforms and equipment, vacations, insurance and pension, general provisions, on duty injuries and deaths of officers, savings clause, probationary period, and drug testing.

The agreement will be in effect from May 1,

2021 to April 20, 2025.

The council approved the destruction of audio and video recordings of closed session meetings.

The meeting recordings that will be destroyed are all from 2019 and include recordings of Jan. 2, March 5, April 2, April 16 and May 7 meetings.

The partial release of some closed meeting minutes was also approved.

The dates of closed meeting minutes that will be partially released are July 2, 2019, July 16, 2019, Aug. 6, 2019, Oct. 1, 2019, Oct. 15, 2019, Jan. 21, 2020, March 17, 2020 and July 21, 2020.

The council also approved a petition from Coles County Habitat for Humanity for a conditional use permit.

The property for which they are asking for the permit is at 990 West State St. and currently houses Habitat for Humanity, the Charleston Food Pantry and the Coalition for People in Need.

The reason for the petition is to allow for an expansion for the Charleston Food Pantry and the petition will allow for all three groups to remain in

Charleston and continue their work.

The Charleston Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning recommended the approval.

The council approved the purchase of portions of land at 224 Grant Ave. and 1615 University Dr. to build ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

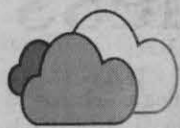
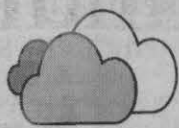
The owners of the land were offered \$300 and \$331 respectively.

The state of emergency in Charleston is due to "the nature of the emergency is the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude that it may result in or threaten the death or illness of persons to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Charleston, and thereby it has warranted an emergency declaration for all states and local government entities and more specifically within the corporate limits of the City of Charleston."

CITY COUNCIL, page 5

Local weather

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

Cloudy
High: 18°
Low: 12°Cloudy
High: 21°
Low: 5°THE DAILY
EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

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STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Millions endure
record cold
without power;
at least 16 dead

OCEAN ISLE BEACH, N.C. (AP) — A winter storm that left millions without power in record-breaking cold weather claimed more lives Tuesday, including three people found dead after a tornado hit a seaside town in North Carolina and four family members who perished in a Houston-area house fire while using a fireplace to stay warm.

The storm that overwhelmed power grids and immobilized the Southern Plains carried heavy snow and freezing rain into New England and the Deep South and left behind painfully low temperatures. Wind-chill warnings extended from Canada into Mexico.

In all, at least 16 deaths were reported. Other causes included car crashes and carbon monoxide poisoning. The weather also threatened to affect the nation's COVID-19 vaccination effort. President Joe Biden's administration said delays in vaccine shipments and deliveries were likely.

North Carolina's Brunswick County had little notice of the dangerous weather, and a tornado warning was not issued until the storm was already on the ground.

The National Weather Service was "very surprised how rapidly this storm intensified ... and at the time of night when most people are at home and in bed, it creates a very dangerous situation," Emergency Services Director Ed Conrow said.

In Chicago, a foot and a half (46 centimeters) of new snow forced public schools to cancel in-person classes for Tuesday. Hours earlier, along the normally balmy

Gulf of Mexico, cross-country skier Sam Fagg hit fresh powder on the beach in Galveston, Texas.

The worst U.S. power outages were in Texas, affecting more than 4 million homes and businesses. More than 250,000 people also lost power across parts of Appalachia, and another quarter million were without electricity following an ice storm in northwest Oregon, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility outage reports. Four million people lost power in Mexico.

Texas officials requested 60 generators from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and planned to prioritize hospitals and nursing homes. The state opened 35 shelters to more than 1,000 occupants, the agency said.

More than 500 people sought comfort at one shelter in Houston. Mayor Sylvester Turner said other warming centers had to be shut down because they lost power.

After being without power since Monday, Natalie Harrell said she, her boyfriend and four kids began sheltering at a Gallery Furniture store in Houston. Harrell said the warming center at the store, owned by Jim McIngvale, has provided people with food, water and power to charge essential electronics.

"It's worse than a hurricane," Harrell said. "I think we are going to be more days without light, that is what it seems like."

Utilities from Minnesota to Texas implemented rolling blackouts to ease the burden on power grids straining to meet the extreme demand for heat and electricity.

Impeachment over,
Congress shifts focus
to security failures

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the still shaken and heavily guarded U.S. Capitol, thousands of National Guard troops still wander the halls. Glass windows remain broken. Doors swing without handles. And in the grand marble hallways, which amplified the shouts of insurrectionists just over a month ago, there is an uncomfortable silence.

The end of Donald Trump's impeachment trial is only the beginning of Congress' reckoning with the Jan. 6 attack, a violent ransacking of the Capitol that resulted in five deaths. While the Senate has spoken on Trump's role in the violence, acquitting him of insurrection after a wrenching five days of impeachment testimony, lawmakers who fled the violent mob are still demanding answers. How, they ask, could security could have failed so catastrophically? And how can they

ensure it doesn't happen again?

"This is not a moment where we pivot and move on," Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy said Saturday, just after the acquittal vote in the impeachment trial. "You cannot view today as the last page of the book. What we were talking about today was the accountability for the leader of the mob. But we still have to protect against future mobs, we still have to go after members of the mob."

The coming weeks — and likely the coming months and years — will force lawmakers to work through the many unanswered questions about the attack. It's a complex task that will test whether lawmakers can set aside partisanship, which flared anew during the impeachment process, and turn the harrowing violence that threatened their lives into a restorative moment for their institution.

Central Illinois
village disbands
police department

WASHBURN, Ill. (AP) — The central Illinois village of Washburn has disbanded its police department, with officials citing a lack of qualified part-time police help and a recently approved state crime-reform bill.

Village President Steve Forney says in addition to the difficulty in finding reliable part-time police help, complying with the reform bill would increase costs. That's because of body-camera requirements, increased training and the liability issues the bill would prompt. The bill was passed in response to last spring's civil unrest over the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other people of color by police.

"We know that the costs of doing this service on our own for a small community will just increase," he said. "The only thing we can do is pass that along in tax increases."

Instead, a two-year deal between Washburn, a village of about 1,100 residents located 26 miles (41.84 kilometers) northeast of Peoria, and the sheriff's office will be considered

by the Woodford County Board. Washburn's village board approved the deal Feb. 8.

Forney said the village had considered a sheriff's-office patrol contract off and on for at least 30 years.

"The police reform bill probably was the nail for them to make this decision," Woodford County Chief Deputy Dennis Tipsword said. "There are just a lot of unknowns in that, and for small towns that are already very limited in their budgets for police protection, it was just too much for them to handle."

Washburn Police Chief John Scroggs was offered severance, Forney told The State Journal-Register in Springfield. Scroggs was the only officer the village was employing. He had help from two part-time officers, but they found other jobs recently.

Extra sheriff's-office patrols in Washburn have been in place since last week, Tipsword said. Once the county board approves the contract, the sheriff's office would establish a substation at the Washburn Village Hall.

'A complete bungle':
Texas' energy pride
goes out with cold

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Anger over Texas' power grid failing in the face of a record winter freeze mounted Tuesday as millions of residents in the energy capital of the U.S. remained shivering with no assurances that their electricity and heat — out for 36 hours or longer in many homes — would return soon or stay on once it finally does.

"I know people are angry and frustrated," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who woke up to more than 1 million people still without power in his city. "So am I."

In all, between 2 and 3 million customers in Texas still had no power nearly two full days after historic snowfall and single-digit temperatures created a surge in demand for electricity to warm up homes unaccustomed to such extreme lows, buckling the state's power grid and causing widespread blackouts. More bad weather, including freezing rain, was expected Tuesday night.

ed Tuesday night.

Making matters worse, expectations that the outages would be a shared sacrifice by the state's 30 million residents quickly gave way to a cold reality, as pockets in some of America's largest cities, including San Antonio, Dallas and Austin, were left to shoulder the lasting brunt of a catastrophic power failure, and in subfreezing conditions that Texas' grid operators had known was coming.

The breakdown sparked growing outrage and demands for answers over how Texas — whose Republican leaders as recently as last year taunted California over the Democratic-led state's rolling blackouts — failed such a massive test of a major point of state pride: energy independence. And it cut through politics, as fuming Texans took to social media to highlight how while their neighborhoods froze in the dark Monday night, downtown skylines glowed despite desperate calls to conserve energy.

President Biden extends
ban on foreclosures

President Joe Biden is extending a ban on housing foreclosures to June 30 to help homeowners struggling during the coronavirus pandemic.

The moratorium on foreclosures of federally guaranteed mortgages had been set to expire March 31. Census Bureau figures show that almost 12% of homeowners with mortgages were late on their pay-

ments.

The White House says the coordinated actions announced Tuesday by the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs and Agriculture also will extend to June 30 the enrollment window for borrowers who want to request pauses or reductions in mortgage payments.

Students celebrate random acts of kindness

By Heather Vosburgh
Campus Reporter | @DEN_News

Random Acts of Kindness Day is celebrated every year on February 17 to encourage acts of kindness among individuals, groups, or organizations.

The organization the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation created the holiday in Denver, Colorado in 1995 to “make the world a better place” and “make kindness a part of our everyday lives.”

Freshman communication disorders and sciences student Sylvia Kendera says kindness is a lifestyle and not just a single action.

“This is because all the random acts of kindness, though they seem small, all add

up in the end to the point that the love and care expressed through them cannot be contained in a single act,” Kendera said. “When extending an act of kindness, such as holding the door for someone, you make that person feel appreciated. At the same time, you feel joy for being able to make this person smile. Then, the people watching this act of kindness take place also feel a greater sense of happiness knowing that good people exist in the world and may be inspired to share the kindness in their own lives. In this way, through multiple small acts, kindness keeps growing and growing until it becomes something to live by.”

Kendera says the basis of a kind act is to care for other people.

“This can be expressed through large projects and group efforts, such as the ESL lessons given at Amigos and Friends at the EIU Newman Center or through simple acts that can be easily integrated into daily life, such as waving ‘hi’ to people passing by, offering to open the door for someone who’s hands are full, or sitting next to someone at a dining hall who seems lonely and starting a conversation with them,” Kendera said. “In all these situations care for other people is being expressed and thus kindness is being shared.”

Ashlyn Dahler, a junior audio and recording technology major, says random acts of kindness are great.

“I love random acts of kindness,”

Dahler said. “I like when they happen, and I think they’re nice. I never think to do them, but I feel like I should.”

Dahler says there are little things a person can do or say to be kind to others.

“Go out of your way for the little things, holding open the door is a nice one,” Dahler said. “Compliments, love compliments. Those are so good, and they brighten up my day. I feel like they brighten up other people’s day and you always think them, but you never say them.”

Chandler Smith, a junior broadcast journalism student, says random acts of kindness from others can be little gestures or big gestures.

“I think just saying please and thank

you for starters, opening a door, just basic things,” Smith said. “It could also be just surprise things to help. Like there was one student whenever I started out at Lake Land that helped me with gas getting back and forth. At the church, I told her I don’t really need the gas, I just want to come up to church.”

Kendera says the size of the kind act is unimportant.

“It does not matter how great a deed is, but how much love and care are behind it,” Kendera said. “It’s important to remember that making a difference starts one person’s world at a time.”

Heather Vosburgh can be reached at 581-2812 or at hmvosburgh@eiu.edu.

Student Senate to discuss pantry

By Helena Edwards
Student Government Reporter | @DEN_News

Audience participation at the upcoming Student Government meeting Wed. 17 will bring up a potential campus pantry and a proposed change to housing and dining rates.

Leading the conversation for a potential campus food pantry will be Beth Gillespie, director of Civic Engagement and Volunteerism at Eastern.

“40% of EIU students are struggling with food insecurity, not knowing where food will come from, and worrying where food will come from,” Gillespie said.

The purpose of bringing this topic forward to the Student Govern-

ment is to gauge how much support a campus pantry will have on campus before working through a financial plan of how to fund this.

The opening of a campus pantry would also open volunteer opportunities for students on campus.

“It would be a great way for students to support each other. By going to a food pantry, you’re literally handing food to people that need help,” Gillespie said. “You walk away from that knowing your time made an impact and had value to the people you served. Students volunteering can then know it’s a safe place to go if they need help getting food on the table.”

Another part of audience participation will be from Mark Hudson,

executive director of university housing and dining services.

It is listed as a proposed housing and dining rate increase, with more information to be released during the meeting.

Committee assignments will be released for each of the student senators and committee reports will most likely start back up in meetings soon.

The consent agenda still holds the appointment of Ashley Bartley and Carey Hendrix to the Student Dean Advisory Council and when enough senators are present for the meetings, the motion will be approved.

Helena Edwards can be reached at 581-2812 or at heedwards@eiu.edu.

Naming Committee to discuss name change

By Elizabeth Taylor
Associate News Editor | @DEN_News

Eastern’s Naming Committee will meet Wednesday to continue the process of deciding whether to change the name of Douglas Hall.

Those interested in speaking to a member of the committee can reach out to Don Holly (representing the Faculty Senate), Claudia Janssen-Danyi (representing the Council on Academic Affairs), Angie Campbell (committee chair and representative of the Staff Senate), Diane Burns (representing the Council of Chairs),

Noor-ul-Haash Khamisani (representing the Student Senate), Carlos Amaya (presidential appointee), Mona Davenport (presidential appointee) or Ken Wetstein, Vice President of University Advancement and ex officio convener of the committee.

The floor will also be opened for guest speaker recommendations; so far, Campbell has recommended David Kent Coy because he is well versed on the topic of the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Elizabeth Taylor can be reached at 581-2812 or at egtaylor@eiu.edu.

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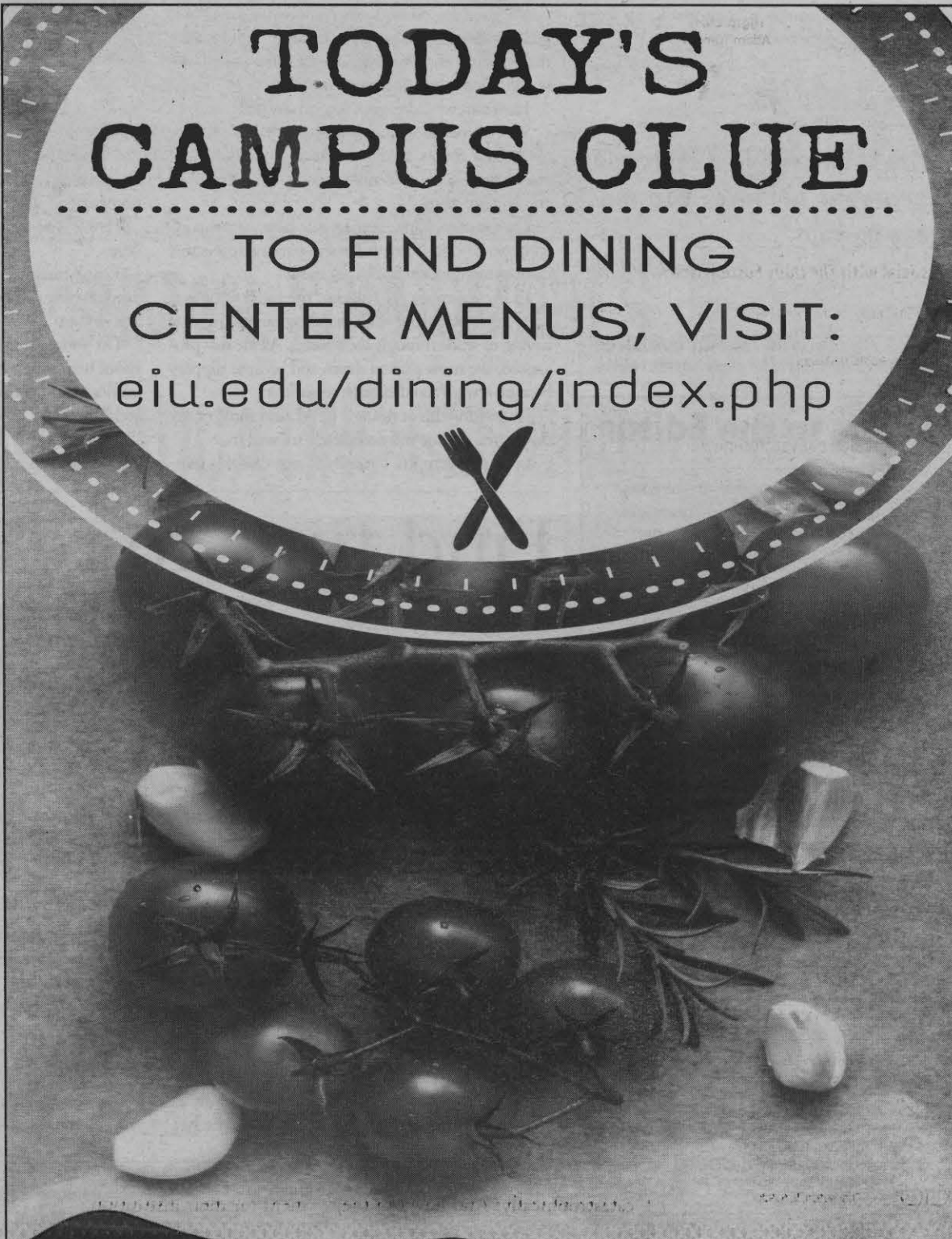
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TODAY'S CAMPUS CLUE

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Be prepared
when bad
weather is
happening

A winter storm is bad enough on its own. So is a global pandemic.

As we learned in the past few days, a winter storm during a pandemic is a nasty combination.

The storm that began Monday caused havoc in numerous states, with wind chill warnings being issued from the United States' Northern border to the Southern border.

States like Texas were hit particularly hard, with millions of people losing power while dealing with freezing temperatures.

More than a foot and a half of snow fell in Chicago. There was even snow on the ground in Galveston, Texas, along the Gulf of Mexico.

Comparatively, Charleston and the surrounding area was not hit too hard.

But severe weather can add stress to people's lives who may be dealing with a lot of stress to begin with. Having difficulties traveling or losing heat in your home can make things even more challenging for people.

If you have people in your life who may be struggling with this winter storm, in particular elderly relatives or people who live in a hard-hit area, check up on them.

Make sure people are careful when out on the roads and are driving appropriately for conditions.

Temperatures are also going to remain below average for much of the week, so keep taking proper precaution.

Quote of the Day:

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."

Albert Einstein

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The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters. Letters that are 250 words or less will be prioritized, but longer ones will be considered by the editorial board. Please include your name and phone number to verify letters.

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BY ZACH BERGER

A winter storm? Snow thank you

The only thing anyone has been able to talk about for the past few days is how cold it is and how much it snowed.

Almost a foot of snow! My car got stuck! It took me an hour to shovel my driveway!

Somehow it seems that the only people who missed the weather event are whoever is in charge of responding to things like that here at Eastern.

We got a day off of classes on Monday, which was great considering the number of people I saw pushing their cars out of snowbanks, as well as the overall frigid conditions and continuous snowfall.

However, we didn't get a second day off.

Part of me understands this; professors want to teach their classes, faculty wants to go to work, and students... Well, students probably would've liked another day off.

On the other hand, I'm not sure how we're expected to get to class if sidewalks and parking lots across campus aren't relatively clear of snow.

In the morning on Tuesday, the main issue was that cars were getting stuck and anyone walking was having to wade through snowbanks. As the day progressed, the snow packed down and became slippery because it wasn't cold enough to melt.

I'm writing this at nearly 11 PM, and some of my classmates' cars are still completely snowed in.

Living on campus, I mostly forgot that this mat-



Elizabeth Taylor

tered.

"Whatever," I thought. "There's a dining hall in my building and I don't have classes today. I'll just do homework online."

People who live off campus do not have that privilege.

I can't imagine what I would've done today if I lived elsewhere in Charleston, not to mention outside of town.

Do you skip classes and spend the day thinking about how much money you're paying for your education or do you venture out and risk getting in an accident?

Additionally, I have the very real privilege of being able-bodied.

Eastern's Student Disability Services do have a program which helps to guarantee that sidewalks will be cleared for students who use walking aids or wheelchairs or are at risk of falling.

This is pretty cool, but with parking lots piled with snow, or "cleared" sidewalks that are really just packed snow that has become bumpy and slick at places, I can't imagine that those students feel safe on their way to classes.

This stress in walking or driving is the last thing we need with all the challenges of this school year, and it is completely unnecessary.

You don't want to cancel classes, but it would be unsafe to have them in person? That's crazy, I've never heard of that dilemma before.

Over the past year, colleges across the country have proven time and time again that students and faculty can work together and use technology to overcome challenges.

We all know how to use Zoom. Eastern is paying for us to be able to have long Zoom classes.

If weather conditions last for more than one day, what's stopping us from using our resources for online learning?

Elizabeth Taylor is a sophomore journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or egtaylor@eiu.edu.

Find time to relax and do nothing

It's that time of the semester where homework assignments, group projects, and exams seem to come one after another. Midterms are just around the corner and we're all one paper away from a nervous breakdown.

Experts may say to combat this by meticulously planning your schedule, exercising to relieve stress or making time to spend with friends. All of this is wonderful advice, but my best solution to college burnout is to do absolutely nothing.

When I say nothing I truly mean nothing. Find a day during the week where you can put your responsibilities to the side, and then do nothing all day.

Take a nap immediately after waking up, not because you are tired but because you can. If you're feeling fancy you can order takeout for one and throw on your favorite comfort film. You don't even have to see your friends if you're not feeling up to it; social interactions require energy and the goal is to expel as little energy as possible.

As someone who constantly plans out her



Destiny Blanchard

schedule and always has something that needs to get done, burnout is a familiar experience. I've perfected the art of doing nothing as a way to balance the days where it seems like I do everything.

I like to prep my do-nothing day by staying up until 4 a.m. the night prior, just to ensure that I don't get out of bed until at least 1 p.m. I'll then put on some old-school R&B to get the sero-

tonin flowing. For breakfast, I'll order a personal pizza and cheesy garlic bread, because eating pizza as your first meal is much more satisfying than eating it at a socially acceptable time. For the rest of the day, I'll switch between napping, watching sitcoms, and scrolling through social media.

Alter your do-nothing day as you see fit, sometimes doing nothing means doing something that you never have the time for. You'll know you've done it correctly if you feel an overwhelming sense of anxiety about the work you put off.

Just kidding. You'll know you've done it right if you can breathe easy and feel confident about putting some effort toward what you need to get done. To those who relate to the constant stress that is college, take my advice, put down the pen, close the laptop and do nothing.

Destiny Blanchard is a junior management major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or dblanchard@eiu.edu.

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» UPI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It added that, "a sitting member of Congress who uses Hitler's obscene methods for indoctrinating children with racism and fascism as a guidepost, igniting hate and violence has no place in Congress."

Locally, Miller's remarks were not well received.

University President David Glassman made a statement regarding Miller, who earned a B.S. in Business Management from Eastern, saying the university does not agree with her words:

"Yesterday's events in our nation's capital were deplorable and inexcusable.

Our ability as Americans to achieve a brighter future together demands we respect our democracy and the democratic traditions and ideals of our nation. Those are the values on which Eastern Illinois University stands, and which will continue to guide our mission.

"Further, and in clear support of those values, EIU denounces the words of recently elected regional representative Mary Miller and further condemns any reference to Hitler or his methodologies as a paradigm for American progress."

Miller later made a statement on the speech:

"Earlier this week, I spoke to a group of mothers about the importance of faith and guarding our youth from destructive influences. I sincerely apologize for any harm my words caused and regret using a reference to one of the most evil dictators in history to illustrate the dangers that outside influences can have on our youth. This dark history should never be repeated, and parents should be proactive to instill what is good, true, right, and noble into their children's hearts and minds. While some are trying to intentionally twist my words to mean something antithetical to my be-

liefs, let me be clear: I'm passionately pro-Israel and I will always be a strong advocate and ally of the Jewish community. I've been in discussion with Jewish leaders across the country and am grateful to them for their kindness and forthrightness."

The UPI said they condemn her speech and its contribution to the violence during the insurrection on Jan. 6.

Regarding her apology the groups says they believe her words were sincere.

In a press release from the group, they say, "As educators, we believe in the power of growth within any human be-

ing. The core of education is to learn from mistakes so we can start on a better path. But written and spoken apologies alone are not sufficient. There must be concrete actions of reparation for the harm we do in our lives."

The union said they believe Miller's constituents will have more faith in her apology if she backs it up with actions and "she demonstrates to us her commitment to end anti-semitism in our country."

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

» BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In response to the drop in revenue caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the failure of the proposed graduated income tax, Pritzker announced in mid-December that he was ordering more than \$700 million in spending reductions along with plans to borrow \$2 billion through the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility. Those were two steps aimed at tackling a budget deficit that could still exceed \$1 billion for the current fiscal year.

According to the latest monthly report by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, base revenues flowing into the state have actually been running about 6.2 percent above estimates as individual income tax and sales tax receipts have come in better than expected.

State spending, however, also has

exceeded budgeted amounts, primarily due to heavier than expected Medicaid expenses, which are partially paid for with federal funds.

So far, Pritzker has revealed little about the budget he plans to propose for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. In a brief email last week, his office said that the \$700 million in spending cuts would be carried forward into the next year and that he will propose closing about \$900 million in what he calls "corporate tax loopholes." It also said he would not propose an increase in individual income or sales taxes.

He also said that for the second straight year, he will not propose a general increase in K-12 education funding, which makes up the largest share of general state spending, although he does expect a large increase

in federal aid for public schools. State law calls for adding \$350 million to the K-12 funding formula each year.

But that still leaves a deficit of roughly \$3 billion for the upcoming fiscal year and the governor's office has not said how Pritzker plans to fill that gap.

Deputy Minority Leader Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, noted during the news conference that due to the pandemic, the budget lawmakers passed in May gave the governor unprecedented authority to shift money between agencies and line items and to direct the spending of billions of dollars in federal disaster relief aid, and he said he believes this year lawmakers should reassert their own authority.

"Last year, the state was on the receiving end of billions of dollars from

the federal government and again, it was it was programs that were overseen by the administration through emergency rules and through an unprecedented level of appropriation authority that was unchecked and unreviewed by the General Assembly," Demmer said. "We must reengage our role as a coequal branch of government to provide the kinds of checks and balances that the people of Illinois expect."

Pritzker is scheduled to deliver his annual budget message to the General Assembly via a live video feed at noon Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the

» CITY COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Brandon Combs expressed his gratitude for the work of local police officers, firefighters and individuals who maintain Charleston roadways during the meeting.

He said he was happy with the work that they have been doing during the winter weather the city has been experiencing recently.

He also mentioned his pride in the Charleston Fire Department for their work on a fire in Comb's neighborhood recently.

Combs said he was interested in watching the firefighters at work.

No public comment was made during the meeting.

The next meeting will be held in City Hall on March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

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Window cleanup



ELIZABETH WOOD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS
Max Balch, the head foreman on Tuesday, boards up and knocks excess glass off of a broken window in Andrew Hall. Balch said he suspects it had broken from the cold.

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AP SPORTS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spurs have 4 players positive, Atlanta has All-Star Game concerns

The San Antonio Spurs are dealing with a coronavirus outbreak among four players, the NBA said Tuesday, meaning the team will not play until the middle of next week at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms — whose city was picked to play host to the NBA All-Star Game and skills competitions on March 7 — raised major concerns about the notion of fans coming to the city for the events.

“People should not travel to Atlanta to party,” she said.

The NBA on Tuesday postponed five more games: the next three for the Spurs — at Cleveland on Wednesday, at New York on Saturday and at Indiana on Monday — as well as the next two for the Charlotte Hornets while contact tracing is completed.

The Hornets were scheduled to play host to Chicago on Wednesday and Denver on Friday. Their games are halted because they were the last team to play the Spurs, losing to them on Sunday. The league is reviewing data to see if any Hornets may have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, a process that takes time.

Charlotte’s next possible game is now Saturday at home against Golden State, in what would be Warriors guard Stephen Curry’s annual return to North Carolina, where he grew up. San Antonio’s next planned game is Feb. 24 at Oklahoma City, meaning the Spurs will have more than a week between contests — as Washington and Memphis did earlier this season when affected by the virus.

Charlotte coach James Borrego said “there’s no indication that anybody” on the Hornets’ roster is positive for COVID-19. But the Hornets finished their game with the Spurs with just eight available players, and Borrego confessed that he doesn’t know what his roster will look like if Saturday’s game goes on as scheduled.

“The league is doing everything they can to gather information and even more information,” Borrego said. “They’re going to watch us over this next week and make sure we’re OK. I think that’s really where it starts.”

The postponements announced Tuesday push the total of games that have been moved back this season because of positive tests or contact tracing issues to 29, including the Spurs’ game at Detroit that was to have been played Tuesday night. The NBA called that game off on Monday.

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Black MLB players, executives strive to diversify baseball

Michele Meyer-Shipp doesn’t have to travel far to realize the challenge of growing the sport of baseball in the Black community.

She just sits down at the dinner table.

Meyer-Shipp, who is Major League Baseball’s chief people and culture officer, has three sons who love sports. They know all about some of baseball’s Black legends like Hank Aaron, the sport’s one-time home run king who recently died at age 86.

But today’s Black baseball stars? Not so much.

“When I listen to my boys talk about sports, they’re always talking about the Black football player. Always,” Meyer-Shipp said. “And I’m like, ‘You know, there are Black baseball players.’ They talk about Black basketball players as well. But those are the guys you always see on commercials, on TV.”

“We need our guys from baseball out there building a brand for Black talent in the game. I think that would really make a difference.”

Marketing the game’s best Black players was one of many topics discussed by a five-person panel of current MLB players, executives and coaches. The conversation, which was streamed Tuesday on MLB.com, is part of MLB’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion program.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, Marlins outfielder Lewis Brinson, former Astros manager Bo Porter and Red Sox coach Bianca Smith were also on the panel. The 26-year-old Brinson said he started playing baseball in south Florida when he was 4 years old and immediately grew to love it, but as he got older, he eventually realized not many Black kids were playing baseball.

He said he only had two Black teammates from tee ball through high school.

“I got made fun of for playing baseball — ‘Oh you’re playing that white sport. What are you doing playing that, man?’” Brinson said. “But obviously I didn’t really care because I loved it.”

The number of Black players in MLB has been dwindling for years, hovering around 8% of the league in recent seasons.

Brinson said that’s one reason he’s proud to be in the The Players Alliance, which is a group of more than 100 Black current and former professional baseball players. The goal is for their platform to lead to “increased opportunities for the Black community in every aspect of our game and beyond.”

Brinson said going into poor areas of cities, providing baseball equipment and giving back was important. He added that it’s also good for the sport when children see players who look like them.

TODAY'S

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Marshall Lassak, Chair
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NOTEBOOK | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers holding final OVC Tournament spot

By Adam Tumino
Editor-in-Chief | @adam_tumino

There is now just a week and a half remaining in the regular season for the women's basketball teams in the OVC.

As things currently stand, only one team, Tennessee State, is mathematically eliminated from the conference tournament.

All other teams are still in contention for a top-eight spot in the OVC.

Still leading the way is Tennessee-Martin, the preseason favorite to win the conference. The Skyhawks are 13-2 in conference play this season and 14-4 overall.

Tennessee-Martin is averaging 69.7 points per game, tied for the second-highest mark in the conference. They also have the fifth-ranked defense in the conference, allowing an average of 61.7 points per game.

Tied with the Skyhawks with 69.7 points per game on offense is Belmont, which currently sits in second in the OVC with a conference record of 9-3.

The Bruins still have games to make up after missing nearly a month of games earlier in the season as a result of COVID protocols.

Belmont also ranks second in defense, allowing just 58.5 points per game. Their offensive and defensive production have earned the Bruins the best scoring margin in the OVC at +11.2 points per game.



Eastern guard Lariah Washington dribbles away from a defender against Belmont on Feb. 4 in Lantz Arena. Washington led the team with 23 points and Eastern lost 77-75.

The hottest team in the OVC is fifth-place Jacksonville State. The Gamecocks are riding a four-game winning streak and are now 9-5 in conference play.

Their defense has been the main catalyst of their success all season, and especially recently. The Gamecocks are allowing just 57.8 points per game this season, the few-

est in the OVC. During their winning streak, they are allowing 53.5 points per game and held Southern Illinois-Edwardsville to 42 points Feb. 13. It was the third time this

season the Jacksonville State has held their opponent under 50 points.

Eastern is currently in eighth place in the OVC with a conference record of 7-9.

The Panthers have lost their last two games and their four remaining games are against teams that rank higher than them in the standings, including games against third-place Southeast Missouri and conference-leaders Tennessee-Martin.

Eastern ranks sixth in the OVC in offense (66.1 points per game) and ninth in defense (67.5 points per game).

Tennessee-Martin forward Chelsey Perry is still dominating the rest of the conference, leading the OVC in scoring by 6.2 points per game.

Her 25.1 points per game rank fifth in the nation.

Murray State freshman Katelyn Young leads the OVC with 9.3 rebounds per game and Eastern's Kira Arthofer still leads the conference in assists per game with 4.8. Arthofer also ranks sixth with 1.9 steals per game.

Eastern forward Abby Wahl ranks fifth in scoring with 15 points per game and her 7.3 rebounds per game rank seventh. She is one of three players to rank in the top 10 in the OVC in both categories.

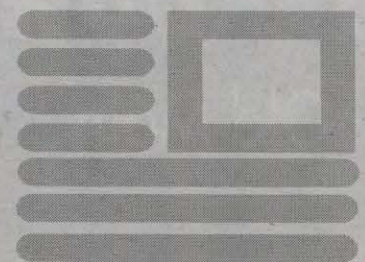
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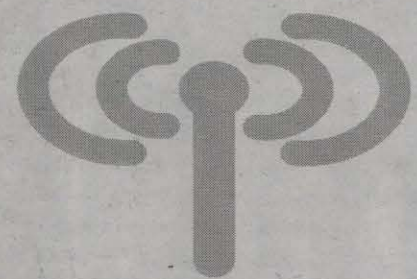
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